

Introduction- **GOD DEMANDS THE ATTENTION OF THE PEOPLE WITH AN ARMY OF BUGS* CONQUERING THE LAND**

1. His prophet Joel- decries the problem- the famine in the land- and tells it comes from God
2. In the midst of finery- Judah failed to get spiritual nourishment, and had a famine-
3. And like the Indonesians- who used white rice- we may have rich food- and still famine- America in the midst of plenty already has spiritual famine- what of that to come?

I.- **THERE IS A FAMINE IN THE LAND* THE SIGN OF GOD'S JUDGEMENT OF THE PEOPLE**A. **NATIONAL CALAMITIES BY SMALL CREATURES Joel 1:4-7**

Taylor

1. Nothing is insignificant in hands of God- "A fly with God's message can choke a king" Jeremy
2. Locusts are impressive as a power in the hand of God- Insects could take over the world!
3. Animals of the forest, the Wind from heaven, hosts of Angels or locusts all do God's bidding

B. **THESE CALAMITIES FOLLOW IN DREADFUL SUCCESSION**

1. Each disaster sets the stage for another that will follow- the insects are followed by dust
2. Each Judgement is a link in a chain, drawn off God one after another.
3. If men like Pharaoh hardened their hearts and are destroyed, what of us today?

C. **THESE CALAMITIES ARE MOST DESTRUCTIVE**

1. The natural source of joy- new wine- is cut off, and so is the old wine- & men suffer
2. In the midst of difficulties, a foreign nation comes up- is this the insects, or men?
3. Nothing is spared- a land that was full of trees was made bare- and still is--

II.- **THE PUNISHMENT IS FROM GOD, FOR THE SINS OF THE LAND, SEEK GOD'S FACE**A. **NATIONAL LAMENTATION IS CALLED FOR Joel 8:-10**

whose hus. killed.

1. The land is desolate, public worship interrupted, the temple forsaken, nation weep as virgin/
2. The utter devastation - the priests, ministers, are to mourn- v. 9, 13
3. The Husbandman of the field is to mourn- 11, 12

B. **GOD'S JUDGEMENT HAS COME UPON THE ENTIRE LAND**

1. They may have planted, to see their seed eaten by the worms- or perhaps grown crops destroyed
2. Every type of growth- the food for the people- is taken- vine, grain, trees, etc-
3. Why- because Joy is withered away from the sons of men

B. **THE JUDGMENT HAD SPIRITUAL OVERTONES AND REASONS***

1. They would have a famine- no offerings to be brought to the temple- but the reason-
2. because there had been a spiritual famine in the land first- Amos 8:11 a famine of God's word
3. Either the priests had not been faithful, or the people had not listened to them.

III.- **SALVATION IS FOUND ONLY IN GOD, BUT FROM HERE THE CHANCES LOOK SLIM**A. **JUDGEMENT MUST BEGIN AT THE HOUSE OF GOD* SO MUST REPENTANCE (V-13)**

1. THE PRIESTS must call for public mourning, and public confession of sin-
2. Physical loss can cause sorrow, but only ones will can admit guilt and repent
3. The priests must lead the way- those closest to the altar, and in order- real need today.

B. **NATIONAL SIN CALLS FOR NATIONAL REPENTANCE AND MOURNING**

1. V. 14 all kinds of men- leaders, elders, princes, and all- called to God's house
2. Sanctify ye a fast- a day of sabbath keeping, without food, - mortification of flesh-
3. Many great nations have done this- lately- South Africa for Rain- and they had a flood.

C. **THE DAY OF THE LORD IS AT HAND, AND FOR MOST IT MEANS A DAY OF CONDEMNATION**

1. The day of the Lord has been pictured to many as a day of deliverance, but first -judgement
2. At least in the presence of the judgement of the day- they turned to the Lord to cry out.
3. As the world prepares for Armageddon, will we have sense enough to turn to God?

Concl. **WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN GOD DEALS WITH OUR LAND IN THIS WAY* and he shall do so soon?**

1. The plenty now hides the fact of a famine of faith in the land- suffering will come
- 2.
- 3.